

colonel. Mr. Booth is well respected nationally for his insights into law enforcement and the role law enforcement officers play in protecting our homeland. Throughout his career he has displayed rigorous intellect and sound judgment.

For these reasons and more, I would like to extend the warmest best wishes to Lt. Col. Joseph Booth on this special day.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BISHOP DAVID COPELAND

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop David M. Copeland for his dedicated ministry to the people of San Antonio.

David Copeland is a native of Buffalo, New York, and received his early spiritual training in the Baptist Church. He completed his undergraduate education at the State University of New York at Brockport, where he received his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Speech Communications. He earned his Master of Divinity in Church Administration at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He was baptized into the Church of God in Christ at the age of 18, and was called to the ministry in 1969.

Bishop Copeland was the founding Pastor of the Good Shepherd Church of God in Christ in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as serving as the Chaplain and Deputy Sheriff of Dekalb County, Georgia. He has a history of taking on especially challenging ministries; he and his wife were the first active duty African American couple in the United States Air Force Chaplaincy, and he is a board member of the Fellowship of Inner City Word of Faith Ministries (FICWFM).

Bishop Copeland currently serves as the Senior Pastor of the New Creation Christian Fellowship of San Antonio, Texas. His church has grown and thrived under his leadership, purchasing new facilities and increasing its membership. His 35 years of ministry have changed countless lives for the better, and have strengthened all of the communities in which he has lived and worked.

Bishop Copeland is a blessing to the people of Texas, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him today.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. RUDDER

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter J. Rudder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools of the Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT), who is retiring after 16 years of meritorious service to the community.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Dr. Rudder has served the students of Burlington County for 38 years.

A teacher of fourth, fifth and sixth grades reading and mathematics in the Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania public schools, Walt moved to the Pemberton Borough School District as Chief School Administrator. Maple Shade Township then welcomed him as Assistant Superintendent and School Business Administrator, followed by service to the students of Northern Burlington County Regional High School District, with his career culminating at BCIT.

Dr. Rudder also contributed to the education field by training prospective educators as an Adjunct Instructor and Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of New Jersey, Southern Illinois University and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

At the helm during expansion projects at both the Medford and Westampton Campuses of BCIT, Dr. Rudder enhanced the adult-school program offerings, strengthened district admission policy and instituted a dress code, while seeing his district gain 600 students during his tenure.

While he plans to become more active as a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson, he also plans to play golf, travel and spend more time with his wife, Pat, and his family.

I and all those whose lives he has touched these many years wish health, happiness and dreams come true in his retirement.

RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE VILLAGE OF BECKEMEYER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Village of Beckemeyer.

On this date, 100 years ago, April 14, 1905, the Village of Beckemeyer officially filed their charter to no longer be known as Buxton, but to, from then on out, go by the name of Beckemeyer.

Buxton was a way station on the Ohio and Mississippi railroad, and was situated four miles west of the county seat of Carlyle. It was laid out in lots by Zophar Case in 1866, and named Buxton in honor of Harvey P. Buxton, an attorney for the railroad, who lived in Carlyle.

On February 24th, 1905, voters rushed to the polls in a momentous vote that carried an overwhelming majority of 53 to 12, laying the official groundwork for the renaming. Many people at the time were worried that the vote would not hold because the vote was apparently held on an official holiday. That was a question for the lawyers to decide.

The vote held steady and the village was organized on this day 100 years ago by Mr. August Beckemeyer and many other prominent citizens of that place. Now and into the future, it will be known as the Village of Beckemeyer.

Here's to the Village of Beckemeyer and all who reside there.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RODOLFO "CORKY" GONZALES AND HIS LIFETIME FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, the Latino community lost a great leader this week. I rise today to pay tribute to Corky Gonzales, a man of principle and passion. He was a man who spent a lifetime working for equal opportunity for all Americans. At the same time, he taught us to take pride in our heritage and to remember our roots as we worked to achieve equality in mainstream society.

Corky was the youngest of 8 children. He was raised in the Denver barrio, where medical facilities were closed to Mexican migrant workers such as his parents, and opportunities were few and far between.

As a child though, he grew up listening to his father's accounts of the Mexican revolution. Having learned from those lessons of fighting for your principles, Gonzales literally fought his way out of poverty. The tough, wily man made his way into the boxing ring, and he worked his way up to become a national champion boxer. He was the first Latino inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

But Corky was also a lifelong poet, a man who understood the power of language. He taught us that words could inspire action and create real change. His epic poem, "Yo Soy Joaquin" was an inspiration to many. It captured the struggle of a community fighting for equality, fighting to break free of poverty, and fighting to create new opportunities without losing the heritage that helps shape our identity.

I shed the tears of anguish
as I see my children disappear
behind the shroud of mediocrity,
never to look back to remember me.
I am Joaquin.
I must fight
and win this struggle
for my sons, and they
must know from me
who I am.

Corky's words called for Latinos to unite for social justice and end discrimination, to demand just treatment. It is because of his leadership in the last 30 years that today we all enjoy a more inclusive society.

Corky will live on in more than memory—he lives on in our hearts, our identity, and the strength he gave us as a community.

REYNALDO G. GARZA AND FILEMON B. VELA UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 483, a bill to rename the courthouse in Brownsville, Texas as the Reynaldo Garza and the Filemon B. Vela courthouse.